

REMARKS

The present amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed August 9, 2005, in which claims 1-5, 7-17, 19 and 20 were rejected, and claims 6 and 18 were objected to. Applicant has thoroughly reviewed the outstanding Office Action including the Examiner's remarks and the references cited therein. The following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the Office Action and, when considered with the above amendments, are believed to render the claims at issue patentable.

Claims 1, 3, 7, 12 and 20 are amended, and claims 5-6 and 18 are canceled herein. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added and that the originally filed specification, drawings, and claims support the amendments.

Claim Objections

In the Office Action, claims 3 and 20 were objected to because the "plastic material" is first mentioned in claim 2, not claim 1, and a typographic error is recited in claim 20.

In response thereto, claims 3 and 20 are amended. Claim 3 is amended to depend from claim 2 and the typographical error in claim 20 is corrected.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

In the Office Action, claims 1-5 and 7-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US2003/0011974 to Curlee et al.

In response thereto, applicant has amended claim 1 to include the subject matter of allowable claim 6 and claim 5. Therefore, the amended claim 1 is now allowable. Since the amended claim 1 is allowable, claims 2-4 and 7-10 which depend from the amended claim 1 are likewise believed to be allowable. Therefore, the applicant respectfully requests that the claim rejections be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

In the Office Action, claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Curlee, and claim 12-17, 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Curlee in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US2002/0101713 to Eland.

Because claim 11 is dependent from allowable claim 1, this rejection has been rendered moot. Further, applicant has amended claim 12 to include the subject matter of allowable claim 18. Therefore, the amended claim 12 is now allowable. Since the amended claim 12 is allowable, claims 13-17 and 19-20 which depend from the amended claim 12 are likewise believed to be allowable. Therefore, applicant respectfully requests that the claim rejections be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

With respect to the Office Action, claims 6 and 18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication of the allowable subject matter in claims 6 and 18, and has amended claims 1 and 12 to add the features of claims 5-6 and 18, respectively.

Applicant has also reviewed the art cited but not relied upon by the Examiner. Applicant believes that these references do not affect the patentability of the claims as currently presented.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims as currently presented are in condition for allowance, and hereby respectfully requests notice of such and passing of this application to issue.

Should the Examiner believe that a conference would help to expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned attorney to arrange an interview.

Should any fee be required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 18-0002, and advise us accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date

RHB:vm

AMENDMENT
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